

RAPID RISING RICHARD PINK, (FROM FLOOR SCRUBBING TO STUDENT SCREENING), GRADUATES

Horatio Alger would certainly approve of Richard Pink, the floor washer-turned-admissions officer who graduates from Concordia University this year.

After giving up a career as an accountant in mutual funds, the 28-year-old Magog native came to the Loyola campus five years ago to study for his B.A.

To finance his studies, he took a job as a floorwasher at the university.

Pink was constantly promoted. Not only in his studies but in his job as well.

Through the first years at the Loyola CEGEP, he was transferred from the floor washing detail to the boiler room. It wasn't long before he earned his stationary engineer's certificate.

"Sure it took humility to come from working in mutual funds to work as as floor washer," Pink said. "But so what? I was working for something I wanted."

Pink said he had reached a career ceiling as a fund accountant. "In mutual funds, your career stabilizes at that point. There are not many fund accountants and they are not always in demand," he said.

"I came here because it had a campus. It was an accredited institution and I liked the people," he said.

Three years ago, Pink married Janina, now 25, who was working as a waitress at the Bay, while taking modern languages at Concordia.

Pink took Loyola's Interdisciplinary Studies program. "It was great. I could take exactly what I wanted. I wrote my own ticket."

He studied theology, classics and sociology, graduating with a 75 percent average.

While studying, he moved up the ladder within the Concordia staff. From the boiler room, he went to the mail room, putting him into contact with every corner of the campus.

A few months ago, Pink made a big stride within the organization. He was promoted to the rank of admissions officer, charged with processing new students entering the university.

Sitting in his new carpeted office, Pink was asked whether he would consider university life as a career.

"Well, I must say I like it,"

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Note: Richard Pink will be at Convocation, June 6 on the Loyola campus at 1:30 p.m. His phone number is 482-0320 (office) or 481-0591 (home). His address: 6695 Sherbrooke W.